IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B) CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Daniel E. E. Hayes, Jr. et al.

Serial No.: 09/910,646 Filing Date: 07/19/2001

Title: BIMETAL TIBIAL COMPONENT CONSTRUCT FOR

KNEE JOINT PROSTHESIS

Group Art Unit: 3738

Examiner: Suzette Jamie Jackson

Attorney's Docket No.: HAYES-3

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please replace the current reference to related applications with the following new reference:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Application

This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/910,646, filed 07/19/2001 by Daniel E. Hayes, Jr. et al. for BIMETAL TIBIAL COMPONENT CONSTRUCT FOR KNEE JOINT PROSTHESIS.